

ALASKA MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY ChalleNGe Program

**STRATEGIC
PLAN
2009-2012**





On the Cover:

Drill and Ceremony. Cadet and 2nd Platoon Leader Kekoa Ramirez, of the Alaska Military Youth Academy class 2008-2, renders a triumphant salute after leading his fellow cadets to a first place victory in the family fun day Drill and Ceremony competition held on Camp Carroll. Photo: Specialist Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska Army National Guard

Graduation Day! Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates toss their berets into the air following their graduation ceremony at Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Fort Richardson. After five-and-a-half months of military-style training and discipline, 123 cadets graduated the AMYA Chal**l**enge program.

Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy



Foreword by the Director

Welcome to the National Guard Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) ChalleNGe Program. The 2009-2012 AMYA Strategic Plan provides a vision and roadmap for the future of the division. The plan sets the framework for success and leads us in a direction where we are able to reach measurable milestones of excellence.

The vision of the National Guard Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe Program is to have AMYA recognized as Alaska's premier program serving at-risk youth. It provides every region, city, town, and village the opportunity to participate, thereby strengthening all of Alaska's youth and ensuring Alaska's and America's future.

Focusing on at-risk youth in Alaska is the top priority at AMYA. With each new class, AMYA receives a record number of applications while the classes are turning out record numbers of graduates. Steeped in 15 years of valued achievement, AMYA's proven intervention techniques and its ability to reach previously unreachable students have motivated numerous young men and women to become productive citizens.

At AMYA, we will continue to look forward and build upon the accomplishments of the past. Complemented by our staff of dedicated professionals who have laid the framework for us to build a better program, this strategic plan follows our vision and is our roadmap for our future. I encourage you to review our plan and commit to helping us continue to move aggressively in a positive direction for Alaska.

Craig N. Christensen
Director

Mission

The mission of the National Guard Alaska Military Youth Academy Challenge Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of Alaska's at-risk youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.



Right Path. Cadets of the Alaska Military Youth Academy work together during work study exchange to find a location on a map. Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy



Tears of Pride. A graduate of the Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe Program tearfully embraces his mother following graduation from the program. Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy



Hard at Work. Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets study diligently during the academic portion of the ChalleNGe program. Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy

Strategic Goal 1:

Strategic Management of Human Capital

Expand staff and cadet knowledge to enhance productivity and reduce costs through training. Methodology is cohort-focused to include individual and group training.

- Provide diversity education and training for staff and cadets focused on improving communication, understanding and cooperative mission accomplishment.
- Provide behavior-based health education, training and counseling for staff and cadets in order to improve productivity and improve quality-of-life issues.
- Establish and implement career retention training focused on cadre/staff and ChalleNGe Program opportunities.

Staying in Step. Five masked Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets from event runner-up 3rd platoon, take the Drill and Ceremony competition and family fun day to a whole new level of freestyle with this custom choreographed synchronized step routine performed on Camp Carroll.

Photo: Specialist Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska Army National Guard





Building Confidence. During the adventure training portion of the Alaska Military Youth Academy's Challenge program, a cadet rappels down a jump tower while his platoon leader looks on. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

Strategic Goal 2:

Competitive Sourcing

Explore and obtain resources to support and benefit existing program elements while enhancing opportunities for program expansion.

- Secure the services of a grant writer(s) to increase grant opportunities for resources that support such projects as cadet literacy, job placement, cooperative work experience, academic and vocational opportunities to include a night school for post-residential cadets.
- Establish a satellite “Job Corps” program to be located on the Alaska Military Youth Academy campus that primarily supports Challenge Program cadets.



Team Building. Cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy Challenge program stand in front of a Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUSV) after skijoring during part of their adventure training, which helps them to become more confident individuals and better able to work together to solve problems.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

- Secure progressive cooperative work experience training and employment opportunities for cadets available through private, state and federal entities.
- Establish a literacy program that encompasses vocationally applied academics (work-based learning) by leveraging private, state and federal program partners.



Proud Accomplishment. During a Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony, Senator Lisa Murkowski congratulates Cadet Kayla Muai and gives her a few words of wisdom. Muai also enlisted into the Alaska Army National Guard while attending the AMYA.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Strategic Goal 3:

Improved Financial Performance

Cultivate private and in-kind resources to enhance program performance.

- Acquire fiscal resources, or in-kind support, from private entities to support existing or new program requirements that encompass academic and vocational programs for cadets.
- Increase grant options to support or increase academic and vocational opportunities for cadets.



Pit Stop. Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe program cadets have the opportunity to view the Army National Guard NASCAR race car on Camp Denali. Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy

White Water Adventure. As part of the Alaska Military Youth Academy's ChalleNGe program, cadets participate in adventure training, helping them to become more confident individuals and better able to work together to solve problems. During the summer session, cadets are often taken white-water rafting and rappelling, and they may even have the opportunity to go through the ropes course on Camp Carroll.

Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy



Top Honors. These cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy took first place in the small schools division in the 23rd Annual GCI Alaska Academic Decathlon. The Alaska Military Youth Academy has entered this competition four times through the years and placed first all four times. Top row, left to right: Cadets Kody Lafond, Ryan Joe, Conrado Walsh, Billy Miller Jr. and Steven Kershner. Middle row: Cadet Arin Hanohano, general studies teacher Mark Balts, English and reading teacher Chana Boyko, Cadets Devin-Paul Wright and Mikel Insalaco. Front row: Cadets David Espinal, Tabitha Parson and Tyler Peterson. Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy

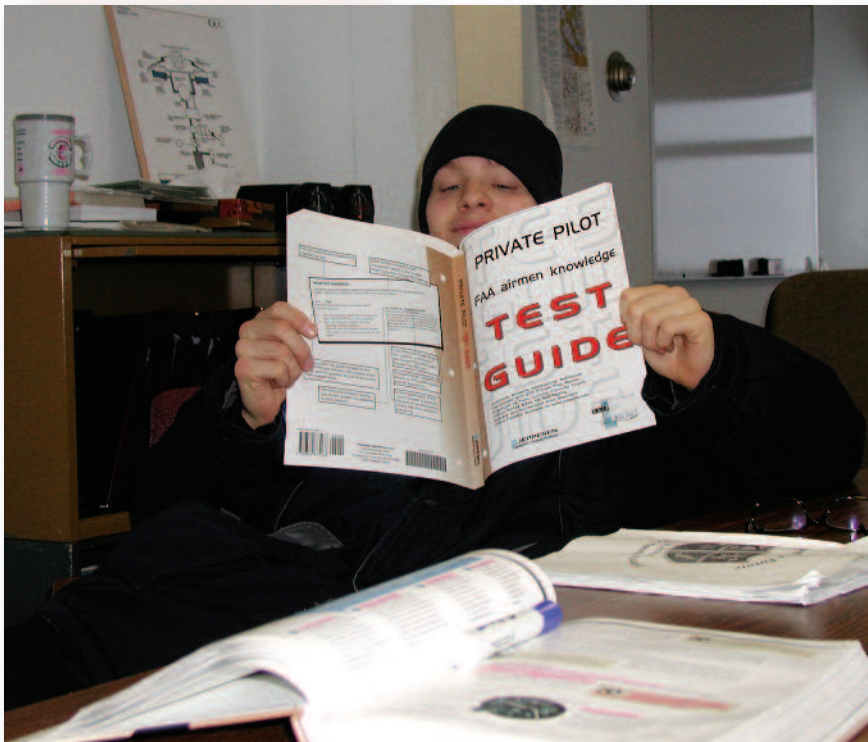


Strategic Goal 4:

Expand Electronic Government

Secure greater capabilities and services at lower cost to enhance and sustain technological capabilities and resources of the Academy.

- Achieve 100 percent fiber optic connectivity on campus.
- Establish and sustain Wi-Fi capability on campus.
- Acquire and utilize a voice-over IP phone capability for on-campus customers.
- Migrate the campus IT support from local servers to the state server backbone.



Test Prep. An Alaska Military Youth Academy cadet takes some time during the cooperative work exchange program to study. Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy

Count Cadence. Cadets of the Alaska Military Youth Academy Challenge program march down Davis Highway on Fort Richardson.

Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Military Youth Academy



Strategic Goal 5:

Infrastructure Improvements

Acquire and establish a vocational center(s) to teach trade skills necessary to integrate graduates into the Alaska workforce.

- Center acquisition priority on labor and trades such as carpentry, welding, heavy equipment repair/maintenance, etc.
- Acquire science and technology laboratory facilities on campus.
- Incorporate vocational programs that focus on logistics and transportation.



Serving up Success. As part of the Alaska Military Youth Academy's ChalleNGe program, the cadets are matched up in the work exchange program with jobs that the youth are interested in possibly pursuing in the future. These cadets are a part of the culinary arts work exchange. Photo: McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs



Standing Proud. A Cadet from the Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe program proudly carries the American Flag as a color guard. Photo: Francis Anthony Gallela

Challenging The Future



ALASKA
Military Youth Academy